

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04720 231716Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----112450 231748Z /46

O 231554Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5281
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4720

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, MOPS, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM LANE, CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS SEP 23. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO LEBANON SLIGHTLY EARLIER THAN PLANNED SINCE DEPT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO REVIEW SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON WITH BOUTROS PRIOR BOUTROS' DEPARTURE FOR US. AMBASSADOR SAID HE TOO WOULD BE GOING TO THE US NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO BE PRESENT AT BOUTROS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE.

2. BOUTROS ASKED IF WE HAD ANY FURTHER INFORMATION TO PASS TO HIM REGARDING THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND WILL INFORM BOUTROS AS SOON AS WE HAVE SOMETHING. BOUTROS SAID THAT HE AND SARKIS WERE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS FOR USG ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS THAT SHTAURA AGREEMENT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND THE CHANCES FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE. HE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION FOR MEANING OF THE TERM "CEASE-FIRE" AND ASKED IF USG WAS SUPPORTING LATEST ISRAELI PROPOSAL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04720 231716Z

WE REPLIED THAT WHEN SECRETARY VANCE SPOKE OF IMPORTANCE OF AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE, HE WAS ENUNCIATING USG VIEW THAT A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO STOP THE FIGHTING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BUT THAT DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN USG WAS ENDORSING DETAILS OF ISRAELI CONCEPT.

3. BOUTROS THEN ASKED AGAIN FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF CHANCES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT AT SOME POINT. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT

USG HOPES TO CONVINCE GOI TO CONCUR AND HE WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS COULD BE DONE BUT DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE. BOUTROS REMARKED THAT IN THE MEANTIME "THEY ARE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH "

AND ASKED WHY, IN OUR VIEW, ISRAELIS OBJECT TO SHTAURA AGREEMENT. WE REPLIED THAT SHTAURA AGREEMENT DID NOT MEET ISRAELI GOAL OF MOVING ALL PALESTINIANS NORTH AND WEST OF LITANI. BOUTROS NOTED, AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE, THAT THIS IS FALSE ARGUMENT SINCE PLO POSITIONS THAT WILL REMAIN IN THE SOUTH POSE NO THREAT TO ISRAEL. HE ALSO REFERRED TO COMMITMENT HE AND SARKIS HAD MADE TO TRY FOR FURTHER PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL IF THIS WOULD PRODUCE ISRAELI ACQUIESCENCE TO SHTAURA AGREEMENT.

4. BOUTROS THEN ASKED IF ISRAEL OBJECTED TO SHTAURA AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN FOR FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN SOUTH LEBANON, SAYING THAT USG OFFICIALS HAD RAISED THIS POINT WITH GENERAL KHOURY IN WASHINGTON. WE AGREED THAT ISRAEL WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT HADDAD AND OTHERS LIKE HIM RECEIVED TREATMENT THAT WAS NO WORSE THAN THAT ACCORDED TO OTHER CHRISTIAN OFFICERS WHO DID NOT DO THEIR DUTY DURING PAST TWO YEARS. BOUTROS REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A "TRICKY" QUESTION AND SAID THERE WOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THESE OFFICERS. HE COULD NOT PROMISE EXACTLY "EQUAL" TREATMENT FOR EVERYONE SINCE THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN "SIMILAR" TREATMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04720 231716Z

5. DURING FURTHER DISCUSSION OF REASONS FOR ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO SHTAURA AGREEMENT AND THEIR REASONS FOR STIRRING UP THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH, BOUTROS WONDERED IF IT WAS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM PROBLEM WITH US OVER GENEVA AND POSSIBLE UN ACTION AGAINST THEM AND TO TORPEDO ANY POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN USG AND PLO. AMBASSADOR SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USELESS FOR HIM TO SPECULATE ON ISRAELI MOTIVES. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE HE FELT THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS USUALLY TACTICAL ADVANTAGE ON GROUND.

6. BOUTROS SAID THAT WHATEVER THEIR REASONS, THE ISRAELI POSITION IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS CLEARLY EMBARRASSING TO USG. ISRAELIS HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY CAN DISREGARD OUR ADVICE. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL IN SOUTH LEBANON BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS ARE SUPPORTING THE CHRISTIAN LEBANESE THERE. THESE PEOPLE SEE A CHIRIWIYAN-US-ISRAELI PLOT TO ESTABLISH CHRISTIAN CONTROL OVER ALL OF LEBANON. BOUTROS SAID HE VERY MUCH FEARED THAT IF THIS OPINION BECAME TOO WIDESPREAD IT WOULD PREVENT THE US FROM PLAYING THE POSITIVE ROLE IN LEBANON WHICH BOUTROS THOUGHT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE US TO PLAY IN ACHIEVING A SOLUTION.

7. BOUTROS THEN DISCUSSED THE ISRAELI CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL AND RE-

ITERATED VERY STRONGLY TWO POINTS THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE TO LANE (SEE BEIRUT 4660). FIRST, THE GOL, HE SAID, CANNOT PROCLAIM A CEASE-FIRE SINCE IT IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE FIGHTING. SECONDLY, NO CEASE-FIRE CAN BE EXPECTED TO LEAD TO ANY POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, BOUTROS SAID, A CEASE-FIRE COULD LEAD TO ILMAC TALKS AT THE COLONEL LEVEL AND THIS CHANNEL COULD BE USED ON OCCASION FOR DISCUSSIONS OF POLITICAL MATTERS. HE REITERATED HIS DESIRE THAT ANY ILMAC MEETINGS BE ON THE BORDER, AFTER THE FIGHTING HAD STOPPED.

8. BOUTROS EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT THAT A WAY SHOULD BE FOUND TO END THE FIGHTING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, FIRST, BECAUSE "PEOPLE ARE DYING" AND, SECOND, BECAUSE AS THE PROBLEM BECOMES MORE INTERNATIONAL LEBANEON IS BEING FACED WITH A VERY DIFFICULT POLITICAL DECISION. IF THE GOL AGREES TO DISCUSSIONS OF SOUTH LEBANON IN THE UN FRAMEWORK
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 04720 231716Z

N
HOW CAN IT EXPLAIN TO CHRISTIAN LEBANESE THAT THE GOL IS WILLING TO RAISE THIS PROBLEM AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WHEN THE PLO IS FIGHTING ISRAEL BUT WAS NOT WILLING TO DO SO WHEN THE PLO WAS FIGHTING LEBANESE?
E?

9. IN A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF JUST HOW THE CEASE-FIRE ENVISAGED IN THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, BOUTROS SAID THAT THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE A CEASE-FIRE BY THE PLO AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THEM THAT THEY WOULD TAKE NO ACTION WHICH MIGHT THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE LEBANESE STATE (I.E., THEY WOULD NOT ATTACK ISRAEL). THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN LEADERS WOULD THEN BE ASKED TO APPEAL TO THEIR CO-RELIGIONISTS IN THE SOUTH TO CEASE FIRING SO THAT THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. BOUTROS SAID THAT THE KFUR FRONT LEADERS HAD INITIALLY MADE A COMMITMENT TO MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS AND HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD STILL BE WILLING TO DO SO. IF THEY DID NOT, IT WOULD NOT MATTER MUCH SINCE THESE CHRISTIAN FIGHTERS WERE ALMOST COMPLETELY UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL. BOUTROS REITERATED THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS; ALL GOL NEEDED WAS AN ASSURANCE FROM THE USG THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD COOPERATE.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PEACE PLANS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT04720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770347-0135
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770930/aaaaazec.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 76635e3f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1163517
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, MOPS, LE, IS, (PARKER, RICHARD B), (LANE, GEORGE), (BOUTROS, FU'AD GEORGES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/76635e3f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009